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1-loop matching and NNLL resummation for all partonic $2 \rightarrow 2$ processes in QCD

RANDALL KELLEY AND MATTHEW D. SCHWARTZ

*Center for the Fundamental Laws of Nature
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA*

Abstract

The Wilson Coefficients for all 4-parton operators which arise in matching QCD to Soft-Collinear Effective Theory (SCET) are computed at 1-loop. Any dijet observable calculated in SCET beyond leading order will require these results. The Wilson coefficients are separated by spin and color, although most applications will involve only the spin-averaged hard functions. The anomalous dimensions for the Wilson coefficients are given to 2-loop order, and the renormalization group equations are solved explicitly. This will allow for analytical resummation of dijet observables to next-to-next-to-leading logarithmic accuracy. For each channel, there is a natural basis in which the evolution is diagonal in color space. The same basis also diagonalizes the color evolution for the soft function. Even though soft functions required for SCET calculations are observable dependent, it is shown that their renormalization group evolution is almost completely determined by a universal structure. With these results, it will be possible to calculate hadronic event shapes or other dijet observables to next-to-leading order with next-to-next-to-leading log resummation.

1 Introduction

While the main goal of the Large Hadron Collider at CERN is to find evidence for physics beyond the standard model, the standard model itself must be accurately understood before any new physics claim can be made. The most common way of comparing data to predictions of the standard model is through Monte Carlo simulations. While these simulations are remarkably accurate in reproducing the gross kinematic features (and often the fine structure) of observables, they are formally accurate to only leading-order in perturbation theory and with resummation of only the leading Sudakov double-logarithmic singularities (LL). While much theoretical work has been devoted to computing phenomenologically relevant observables to next-to-leading order (and sometimes even next-to-next-to-leading order), very little is known about the effects of higher-order resummation. Since observables at the LHC generally involve many scales, it is likely that resummation will lead to a quantitatively significant improvement of our theoretical predictions. Recent advances in Soft-Collinear Effective Theory have shown resummation to be achievable at the next-to-leading (NLL) [1, 2], next-to-next-to-leading (NNLL) [3, 4, 5] and next-to-next-to-next-to-leading (N³LL) logarithmic order [6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11]. Practical results have included a precise measurement of α_s from event shapes [8, 9], better agreement with Tevatron data and reduced theoretical uncertainty for the direct photon p_T spectrum [4], and a bound on possible new colored states [12]. In all of these cases, higher order resummation was critical to the improved theoretical precision, and so it is natural to ask whether resummation might be similarly important for pure QCD events.

In this paper, we take the first step towards the calculation of dijet observables at next-to-leading order (NLO) with NNLL resummation. The computation of a dijet observable in SCET requires a factorization formula which convolutes parton distribution functions (PDFs), Wilson coefficients, jet functions and a soft function. Although the jet and soft functions are observable dependent, the Wilson coefficients are universal and independent of the details of the factorization theorem. For an NLO calculation, the complete set of NLO Wilson coefficients for all the $2 \rightarrow 2$ processes of QCD is required, but explicit expressions have only been presented in the literature for the $q\bar{q} \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ channel and its various crossings [13]. The necessary diagrams for $q\bar{q} \rightarrow g\bar{g}$ and its crossings were computed in [14, 15] and for $g\bar{g} \rightarrow g\bar{g}$ in [15] and [16]. These amplitudes can be used to extract the Wilson coefficients for the remaining channels. This computation, and the compilation and simplification of all of the 1-loop expressions, is a main result of this paper.

The other main result of this paper is the elucidation of how the color structures and spin states interfere in the context of resummation. Processes with four hard partons in QCD separate into a number of color structures, corresponding to separate operators in SCET, which mix under RG evolution. Similar color mixing has already been studied for collinearly-regulated soft Wilson lines using the traditional approach to resummation [17], and for quark scattering [13], gauge boson production [18] and $t\bar{t}$ production [5] using SCET. For NNLL resummation, the renormalization group equations must be solved to least 2-loop order. A general form for these RGEs is known [18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23], as is the related soft function evolution equation [17].

Since jet functions and PDFs are color diagonal, the color mixing in the evolution of the Wilson coefficients is exactly compensated for by color mixing in the soft function evolution. In fact, since the Wilson coefficients are universal (observable independent), the mixing terms in the soft function must also be universal. Moreover, all of the color-mixing is proportional to the universal cusp anomalous dimension (up to at least 2-loop order). Therefore, the color-mixing effects can be diagonalized once-and-for-all by a careful choice of operator basis. This natural basis for evolution is different from the one that is natural for matching, in which the Wilson coefficients take a particularly simple form. This implies that although the color mixing in the evolution can be diagonalized, there are still additional interference effects relevant beginning at NNLL due to the non-diagonal components of the NLO hard and soft functions.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we give an overview of factorization for dijet processes in SCET. Section 3 introduces the operators for the $2 \rightarrow 2$ processes. Their Wilson coefficients are computed in Section 4 and the RGEs are presented and solved in Section 5. Then, in Section 6 we explain which features of the soft function evolution are universal. Finally, 7 presents some conclusions and possible applications of these results.

2 Factorization in SCET

Cross sections for dijet observables calculated with Soft-Collinear Effective Theory [27, 28, 29] will have the general form

$$d\sigma \sim d\Pi \sum_{\substack{I, J, \Gamma, \\ \text{channels}}} \frac{1}{N_{\text{init}}} c_J^{\Gamma\star} \cdot S_{JI} \cdot c_I^{\Gamma} \otimes \mathcal{J} \otimes \mathcal{J} \otimes f \otimes f. \quad (1)$$

Here, $d\Pi$ is the Lorentz-invariant phase space and N_{init} are the number of initial states, which are averaged over in computing the cross section. c_I^{Γ} are Wilson coefficients, with I indexing the different color structures and Γ indexing the different spins. The Wilson coefficients encode information about the hard $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering process. S_{IJ} are the soft functions. These form a matrix in color space, but are independent of spin. The jet functions \mathcal{J} and the PDFs f are spin-averaged and color-independent. The sum is also over channels, which for $2 \rightarrow 2$ processes are $qq \rightarrow qq$, $\bar{q}q \rightarrow gq$ and $gg \rightarrow gg$ and their various crossings (like $qg \rightarrow qg$). Everything has an implicit channel index, which we suppress for clarity. One can show that at leading power in the SCET expansion the channels do not interfere and the cross section for each channel can simply be added together. For more details, see for example [4].

The effective field theory calculation begins by matching from QCD to SCET. This involves enumerating the appropriate operators in both theories and calculating matrix elements in relevant final states. Wilson coefficients for the SCET operators are then adjusted so that they reproduce the amplitudes from QCD to the desired order in perturbation theory, if evaluated at the hard scale μ_h . If the SCET operators are evaluated at lower scales, their matrix elements change, and include the effects of resummation. Matrix elements of outgoing collinear fields give jet functions, incoming collinear fields give PDFs, and matrix elements of soft Wilson lines give the soft function. Due to factorization, all of these objects can be evaluated independently and combined together using a factorization formula.

To illustrate the procedure in detail, consider the process $qq' \rightarrow qq'$. We will label the incoming partons as **1** and **2** and the outgoing partons as **3** and **4**. The operators in QCD appropriate for this channel have the form

$$\mathcal{O}_{I\Gamma}^{\text{QCD}} = (\bar{q}_4 T_I \gamma_\mu \Gamma q_2) (\bar{q}_3 T_I \gamma^\mu \Gamma' q_1). \quad (2)$$

Here, I indexes the color structure ($T_1 = \tau^a$ or $T_2 = \mathbf{1}$), and Γ and Γ' index the spin (e.g. $\Gamma = \Gamma' = P_L = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \gamma_5)$). The operators in SCET follow from replacing each QCD quark with a collinear quark and adding soft and collinear Wilson lines,

$$\mathcal{O}_{I\Gamma}^{\text{SCET}} = (\bar{\chi}_4 Y_4^\dagger T_I \gamma_\mu \Gamma Y_2 \chi_2) (\bar{\chi}_3 Y_3^\dagger T_I \gamma^\mu \Gamma Y_1 \chi_1). \quad (3)$$

The fields denoted by χ_i are collinear quarks in the n_i^μ direction wrapped in n_i -collinear Wilson lines (not shown). The Y_i are soft Wilson lines in the fundamental representation of $SU(3)$. For more details of the notation, see for example [4].

In SCET there is a separate set of collinear degrees of freedom associated with each direction **1234**, and a single set of soft degrees of freedom which can communicate among the collinear sectors. When we calculate a cross section from the squared matrix elements of SCET operators, contributions from different collinear sectors do not interfere and can be factorized into separate calculations. Vacuum matrix elements of collinear fields associated with outgoing directions turn into jet functions. For example, we may be interested in the inclusive jet function in the **4** direction. This requires the evaluation of

$$\langle 0 | \bar{\chi}_4(x) \Gamma \chi_4(0) | 0 \rangle = \text{tr} \left[\frac{\not{n}_4}{2} \Gamma \right] \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^3} \theta(p^0) (\bar{n}_4 \cdot p) \mathcal{J}_4(p^2) e^{-i x p}. \quad (4)$$

Gluon jet functions are defined similarly [4], and less inclusive jet functions are possible as well [30, 31, 32]. When the collinear field is associated with an incoming direction, the matrix elements should be taken in the state of the appropriate nucleon (N_1 or N_2), which produces parton distribution functions (PDFs). For example, the incoming collinear field in the **1** direction gives

$$\langle N_1 | \bar{\chi}_1(x_+) \Gamma \chi_1(0) | N_1 \rangle = \frac{1}{4} \bar{n}_1 \cdot P_1 \text{tr} [\not{n}_1 \Gamma] \int_{-1}^1 d\xi f_{q/N_1}(\xi) e^{i \xi (\mathbf{n}_1 \cdot x) (\bar{n}_1 \cdot P_1)/2}. \quad (5)$$

Here, $f_{q/N_1}(\xi)$ is a PDF. The dependence on $x_+ = \mathbf{n}_1 \cdot x \frac{\bar{n}_1^\mu}{2}$ indicates that, in contrast to the jet functions, fluctuations of initial states in the transverse direction are power suppressed.

The final contribution to a cross section from the SCET operators comes from the soft Wilson lines. For the operator in Eq. (3), these are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{W}_I &= \mathbf{T} \left\{ (Y_4^\dagger T_I Y_2)_{i_2}^{i_4} (Y_3^\dagger T_I Y_1)_{i_1}^{i_3} \right\} \\ &= \mathbf{T} \left\{ (Y_4^\dagger T_I Y_2) (Y_3^\dagger T_I Y_1) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

\mathcal{W}_I has 4 fundamental color indices which have been suppressed in the second line since the index structure is clear. Taking vacuum matrix elements of these Wilson lines produces a soft function

$$S_{IJ}(\{k\}, n_i^\mu) = \sum_{X_s} \langle 0 | \mathcal{W}_I^\dagger | X_s \rangle \langle X_s | \mathcal{W}_J | 0 \rangle F_S(\{k\}), \quad (7)$$

where the sum is over soft radiation in the final state. The function $F_S(\{k\})$ encodes the dependence on various projections related to the definition of the observable. At tree level, the soft wilson lines are trivial ($Y_i = \mathbb{1}$) and the function $F_S(\{k\})$ must reduce to a product of delta functions since there is no soft radiation. For the example being considered ($qq' \rightarrow qq'$), we have $\mathcal{W}_1 = \tau^a$ and $\mathcal{W}_2 = \mathbb{1}$ and the tree level soft function takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} S_{IJ}^{\text{tree}}(\{k\}, n_i) &= \begin{pmatrix} \text{Tr}[\tau^b \tau^a] \text{Tr}[\tau^a \tau^b] & \text{Tr}[\tau^a] \text{Tr}[\tau^a] \\ \text{Tr}[\tau^b] \text{Tr}[\tau^b] & \text{Tr}[\mathbb{1}] \text{Tr}[\mathbb{1}] \end{pmatrix} \prod_{\{k\}} \delta(k) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{C_A C_F}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & C_A^2 \end{pmatrix} \prod_{\{k\}} \delta(k). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Note that the jet functions and PDFs are spin averaged, and the soft function is independent of spin. Thus, the spin correlations are determined completely at the hard scale and are stored in the Wilson coefficients. To be explicit, the SCET Lagrangian contains a sum over all the possible spin states Γ ,

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{I, \Gamma} c_I^\Gamma \mathcal{O}_I^\Gamma. \quad (9)$$

When one calculates a matrix-element squared from this Lagrangian, the operator products turn into jet and soft functions which have no spin dependence. So, we can write heuristically that

$$|\mathcal{M}|^2 = \frac{1}{N_{\text{init}}} \sum_{I, J, \Gamma} c_J^{\Gamma*} \cdot S_{JI} \cdot c_I^\Gamma \otimes \mathcal{J} \otimes \mathcal{J} \otimes f \otimes f. \quad (10)$$

This is the same as Eq. (1) once the phase space factor is added. Therefore, for a spin-summed cross section we only need the spin-summed hard function defined by

$$H_{IJ} = \sum_{\Gamma} c_I^\Gamma c_J^{\Gamma*}. \quad (11)$$

Then,

$$|\mathcal{M}|^2 = \frac{1}{N_{\text{init}}} \sum_{I, J} H_{IJ} S_{JI} \otimes \mathcal{J} \otimes \mathcal{J} \otimes f \otimes f. \quad (12)$$

Since the spin information is retained in the Wilson coefficients, spin correlations can be studied using SCET, if desired, simply by summing only over the desired spins Γ .

As a check on the Wilson coefficients, we can compare the $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering cross section in SCET to the spin-summed cross section in full QCD. If the matching has been done correctly, these two calculations should agree. Although the $2 \rightarrow 2$ processes are infrared divergent

and not physical, the comparison can be made in $4 - 2\varepsilon$ dimensions as a formal check. Since there is no structure to the outgoing or incoming partons for $2 \rightarrow 2$ parton-level scattering, only virtual graphs contribute. Thus, the jet functions, soft functions, and PDFs are fixed to their tree-level values, which produce delta functions of the parton momenta. Only the soft function provides non-trivial structure, through its color factors. Putting these observations together, we should find

$$\left| \mathcal{M}_{(2 \rightarrow 2)}^{\text{QCD}} \right|^2 = \frac{1}{N_{\text{init}}} \sum_{IJ} H_{IJ} S_{JI}^{\text{tree}} = \frac{1}{N_{\text{init}}} \text{Tr}[H S^{\text{tree}}]. \quad (13)$$

We will use this equation as an important check on our calculations, comparing the matched SCET prediction to the cross sections from Ellis and Sexton [26].

3 Operators

In this section, we present the operators relevant for dijet production. Again, we will label the incoming partons as **1** and **2** and the outgoing partons as **3** and **4**.

First consider the channels involving only quarks and anti-quarks. We start with $qq' \rightarrow qq'$, with q and q' different quark flavors, e.g. $u(p_1) + d(p_2) \rightarrow u(p_3) + d(p_4)$. In this channel, there are two separate color singlet operators for each spin

$$\mathcal{O}_{1\Gamma\Gamma'}^{stu} = (\bar{\chi}_4 Y_4^\dagger \tau^a \gamma_\mu \Gamma Y_2 \chi_2) (\bar{\chi}_3 Y_3^\dagger \tau^a \gamma^\mu \Gamma' Y_1 \chi_1) \quad (14)$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{2\Gamma\Gamma'}^{stu} = (\bar{\chi}_4 Y_4^\dagger \gamma_\mu \Gamma Y_2 \chi_2) (\bar{\chi}_3 Y_3^\dagger \gamma^\mu \Gamma' Y_1 \chi_1). \quad (15)$$

Here, τ^a refer to generators of $\text{SU}(3)$ and the color adjoint index a is summed over. Γ and Γ' label the spin of the operator.

Since QCD is non-chiral, left- and right-handed fermions can be thought of as separate species; thus it is simplest to take a basis where Γ and Γ' are either $P_L = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \gamma_5)$ or $P_R = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \gamma_5)$, as in [13]. Note that the primes on the Γ go with the second contraction, not with the second quark species. For example, for the $u(p_1) + d(p_2) \rightarrow u(p_3) + d(p_4)$ process,

$$\Gamma\Gamma' = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} LL = P_L P_L \\ LR = P_L P_R \\ \vdots \end{array} \right\} \text{ refers to } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} u_L d_L \rightarrow u_L d_L \\ u_R d_L \rightarrow u_R d_L \\ \vdots \end{array} \right\}. \quad (16)$$

and so on.

For the crossed processes the fermions are contracted differently. For example, in $qq' \rightarrow q'q$, the fields labels change from **4231** to **3241**. The new operators are

$$\mathcal{O}_{1\Gamma\Gamma'}^{sut} = (\bar{\chi}_3 Y_3^\dagger \tau^a \gamma_\mu \Gamma Y_2 \chi_2) (\bar{\chi}_4 Y_4^\dagger \tau^a \gamma^\mu \Gamma' Y_1 \chi_1) \quad (17)$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{2\Gamma\Gamma'}^{sut} = (\bar{\chi}_3 Y_3^\dagger \gamma_\mu \Gamma Y_2 \chi_2) (\bar{\chi}_4 Y_4^\dagger \gamma^\mu \Gamma' Y_1 \chi_1). \quad (18)$$

There are 4! possible permutations of the labels 1234 , but the Wilson coefficients for all channels are determined by crossing relations of the Mandelstam invariants s , t and u . Therefore, we label the operators with the appropriate permutation of stu . The momentum routing and operators for various crossings are given in Table 1. Our conventions are chosen to agree with [26]. Note that the stu channel is defined as $qq' \rightarrow qq'$ which has a t -channel pole at leading order.

As long as the quarks are distinguishable, only one set of operators is required for each channel. However, there are additional subtleties when identical particles are present. Consider the process $qq \rightarrow qq$. At tree-level, this process gets a contribution from the t -channel and the u -channel. The t -channel is like $qq' \rightarrow qq'$ and can be matched onto $\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma}^{stu}$, while the u -channel is like $qq' \rightarrow q'q$, which matches onto $\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma}^{sut}$. As long as there is no interference, both of these operators can be turned on at the same time in the Lagrangian, and the amplitudes added incoherently. In fact, for the LR and RL operators, in which the quark helicities are different, this is the case. However, for the LL and RR , interference is important. This can be seen in the effective theory because the operators are not linearly independent. As was shown in [13],

$$\mathcal{O}_{ILL}^{sut} = B_{IJ} \mathcal{O}_{JLL}^{stu}, \quad (19)$$

where

$$B_{IJ} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{C_A} & 2 \\ \frac{C_F}{C_A} & \frac{1}{C_A} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (20)$$

This crossing matrix satisfies $B^2 = 1$, and includes the -1 from Fermi statistics. Thus, to treat the LL and RR channels, only the \mathcal{O}_{ILL}^{stu} operators are required. We will use this matrix to extract a single set of Wilson coefficients for the $qq \rightarrow qq$ channel in the next section.

For the $gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ processes, there are three color structures and 16 independent spin/helicity combinations. For the quark spins, it makes sense to project out the left- and right-handed states using the $\Gamma = P_L$ or P_R projectors. For the gluon helicities, we could use a similar projector formalism, but it is easiest to simply write \pm as a label for the (incoming) gluon helicities. For the $gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ channel, the operators in QCD are then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}_{1\pm\pm}^{stu} &= (\bar{q}_3 \tau^a \tau^b \Gamma q_4) (A_1^{a\pm} A_2^{b\pm}) \\ \mathcal{O}_{2\pm\pm}^{stu} &= (\bar{q}_3 \tau^b \tau^a \Gamma q_4) (A_1^{a\pm} A_2^{b\pm}) \\ \mathcal{O}_{3\pm\pm}^{stu} &= (\bar{q}_3 \delta^{ab} \Gamma q_4) (A_1^{a\pm} A_2^{b\pm}), \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

which we generically write as

$$\mathcal{O}_{I\pm\pm}^{stu} = (\bar{q}_3 T^{ab} \Gamma q_4) (A_1^{a\pm} A_2^{b\pm}), \quad (22)$$

with $T_1 = \tau^a \tau^b$, $T_2 = \tau^b \tau^a$ and $T_3 = \delta^{ab}$. The Γ dependence of these operators determines the spin of the out going quarks, and since QCD is non-chiral, the amplitude will be independent of Γ and so we leave the Γ index on the operators implicit. The following equation should

make the helicity conventions clear.

$$\pm\pm = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} L = P_L; ++ \\ L = P_L; +- \\ R = P_R; +- \\ \vdots \end{array} \right\} \text{ refers to } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} g^+ g^+ \rightarrow q_L \bar{q}_R \\ g^+ g^- \rightarrow q_L \bar{q}_R \\ g^+ g^- \rightarrow q_R \bar{q}_L \\ \vdots \end{array} \right\}. \quad (23)$$

It is straightforward to translate these QCD operators into operators in SCET. Gluon fields with associated collinear Wilson lines are labeled $\mathcal{A}_{n\perp}^\mu$ or equivalently $\mathcal{A}_{n\perp}^\pm$. To make the notation clear, $\mathcal{A}_{n\perp}^+$ annihilates an incoming positive (+) helicity gluon and creates an outgoing negative (-) helicity one. We write \mathcal{Y}_n^{ab} for a soft Wilson line in the adjoint representation in the direction n^μ , as in [28]. Then, performing a soft-field redefinition

$$\mathcal{A}_{n\perp}^{\pm a} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_n^{ab} \mathcal{A}_{n\perp}^{\pm b} \quad (24)$$

leads to

$$\mathcal{O}_{I\pm\pm}^{stu} = (\bar{\chi}_3^i \mathcal{A}_{1\perp}^{\pm a} \Gamma \mathcal{A}_{2\perp}^{\pm b} \chi_4^j) \left(Y_3^\dagger \mathcal{Y}_1^{aa'} T_I^{a'b'} \mathcal{Y}_2^{bb'} Y_4 \right)_{ij}^i \quad (25)$$

The indices a and b are adjoint color indices and i and j are fundamental color indices. We have also used factorization to pull the soft Wilson lines away from the collinear fields. When these operators are squared, the a, b, i and j indices in the collinear part (left brackets) are contracted with their counterparts in the adjoint operator through delta functions, since the collinear interactions are color diagonal. Therefore, the a, b, i and j indices in the soft part (right brackets) also get contracted with the soft part of the adjoint operator. Thus, collinear fields can be completely ignored when calculating color-related effects. This situation is almost identical to the direct photon case, except now with multiple color structures; more details of how such a factorization arises and how the color and spin indices are contracted can be found in [4].

The crossed operators are constructed in a straightforward way by permuting the indices. For example, for $qg \rightarrow qg$, the operators are

$$\mathcal{O}_{1\pm\pm}^{tsu} = (\bar{q}_3 T^{ab} \Gamma q_1) (A_4^{\mp a} A_2^{b\pm}). \quad (26)$$

Various crossings and the momentum routing conventions, which again are chosen to agree with [26], are shown in Table 2.

For $gg \rightarrow gg$, we also label the operators by the gluon helicities, rather than putting in explicit helicity projectors. There are 8 color channels for this process, 16 spin states, and no crossings. The matching is more conveniently performed using an over-complete basis of the following 9 operators

$$\mathcal{O}_I^{\pm\pm;\pm\pm} = \left(\mathcal{A}_{1\perp}^{\pm a} \mathcal{A}_{2\perp}^{\pm b} \mathcal{A}_{3\perp}^{\pm c} \mathcal{A}_{4\perp}^{\pm d} \right) \left(T_I^{a'b'c'd'} \mathcal{Y}_1^{aa'} \mathcal{Y}_2^{bb'} \mathcal{Y}_3^{cc'} \mathcal{Y}_4^{dd'} \right), \quad (27)$$

where the color structures are given by

$$T_1^{abcd} = \text{Tr}[\tau^a \tau^b \tau^c \tau^d] \quad T_6^{abcd} = \text{Tr}[\tau^a \tau^c \tau^b \tau^d]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
T_2^{abcd} &= \text{Tr}[\tau^a \tau^b \tau^d \tau^c] & T_7^{abcd} &= \text{Tr}[\tau^a \tau^d] \text{Tr}[\tau^c \tau^b] \\
T_3^{abcd} &= \text{Tr}[\tau^a \tau^d \tau^c \tau^b] & T_8^{abcd} &= \text{Tr}[\tau^a \tau^b] \text{Tr}[\tau^c \tau^d] \\
T_4^{abcd} &= \text{Tr}[\tau^a \tau^d \tau^b \tau^c] & T_9^{abcd} &= \text{Tr}[\tau^a \tau^c] \text{Tr}[\tau^b \tau^d] \\
T_5^{abcd} &= \text{Tr}[\tau^a \tau^c \tau^d \tau^b].
\end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

While this basis can be reduced to a linearly independent set of 8 operators, there is no need to do so. As long as the interference effects among the 9 operators are properly accounted for, there is no difficulty in the effective theory with the basis being overcomplete.

4 Wilson Coefficients

The Wilson coefficients \mathcal{C}_I for the operators \mathcal{O}_I are calculated in matching from QCD to SCET. They are uniquely fixed by requiring that the SCET Lagrangian reproduce the matrix elements of QCD order-by-order in α_s . Since virtual graphs in SCET are scaleless, they vanish in dimensional regularization. Moreover, since infrared divergences in SCET are the same as in QCD, they cancel in the matching step. Therefore, the matching coefficients can be extracted entirely from IR-regulated virtual graphs in QCD. All of the following results are derived using dimensional regularization and the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ subtraction scheme.

There are a number of results in the literature which are relevant for the calculation of the Wilson coefficients. The classic work [26] presents the cross sections for all the channels separately, summed over spins and colors. This is not enough information to extract the Wilson coefficients, which we need at the amplitude level. Refs. [34] and [15] have calculated the necessary diagrams for the $qq \rightarrow qq$ channels. Refs. [14] and [15] have the $q\bar{q} \rightarrow gg$ results. For $gg \rightarrow gg$ most of the loop amplitudes appear in [15], except for a few of the color channels which can be found in [16]. Much of the previous work is written using the spinor helicity formalism. In order to simplify the Wilson coefficients, we will convert the spinor helicity products into Mandelstam invariants.

Our momentum convention is $p_1 + p_2 \rightarrow p_3 + p_4$. We define Mandelstam invariants as

$$s = (p_1 + p_2)^2, \quad t = (p_1 - p_3)^2, \quad u = (p_2 - p_3)^2. \tag{29}$$

This convention agrees with [26], but differs from Chiu et al. [13] via $u \leftrightarrow t$. For all processes, physical kinematics has $s > 0$ and $t, u < 0$. Since the matching is done at the hard scale we will indiscriminately use

$$s + t + u = 0 \tag{30}$$

to simplify the Wilson coefficients.

4.1 $qq \rightarrow qq$ channels

First, consider the 4-quark processes. There are six channels involving two different flavor quarks (such as u and d , which we call generically q and q')

$$qq' \rightarrow qq', \quad q\bar{q}' \rightarrow q\bar{q}', \quad q\bar{q} \rightarrow \bar{q}'q', \quad qq' \rightarrow q'q, \quad q\bar{q}' \rightarrow \bar{q}'q, \quad q\bar{q} \rightarrow q'\bar{q}'. \tag{31}$$

$12 \rightarrow 34$	crossing	operators	$12 \rightarrow 34$	crossing	operators
$qq' \rightarrow qq'$	stu	$(\bar{q}_4 T \Gamma q_2)(\bar{q}_3 \Gamma' T q_1)$	$qq' \rightarrow q'q$	sut	$(\bar{q}_3 T \Gamma q_2)(\bar{q}_4 \Gamma' T q_1)$
$q\bar{q}' \rightarrow q\bar{q}'$	uts	$(\bar{q}_2 T \Gamma q_4)(\bar{q}_3 \Gamma' T q_1)$	$q\bar{q}' \rightarrow \bar{q}'q$	tus	$(\bar{q}_2 T \Gamma q_3)(\bar{q}_4 \Gamma' T q_1)$
$q\bar{q} \rightarrow \bar{q}'q'$	tsu	$(\bar{q}_4 T \Gamma q_3)(\bar{q}_2 \Gamma' T q_1)$	$q\bar{q} \rightarrow q'\bar{q}'$	ust	$(\bar{q}_3 T \Gamma q_4)(\bar{q}_2 \Gamma' T q_1)$

Table 1: Crossing relations for the 4-quark channels. For example, the Wilson coefficients for the tsu channel are obtained from the stu channel via $C_{I;tsu}^\Gamma(s, t, u) = C_{I;stu}^\Gamma(t, s, u)$.

The first channel we call stu . The others are related by crossing symmetries, as shown in Table 1. In addition, there are three identical particle channels

$$qq \rightarrow qq, \quad q\bar{q} \rightarrow q\bar{q}, \quad q\bar{q} \rightarrow \bar{q}q. \quad (32)$$

All other channels, such as $\bar{q}\bar{q}' \rightarrow \bar{q}\bar{q}'$ and $\bar{q}\bar{q} \rightarrow \bar{q}\bar{q}$, are the same as one of these by charge conjugation invariance of QCD. Charge conjugation also swaps $L \leftrightarrow R$, although this is unimportant since L and R states never interfere.

For all the non-identical particle channels, the Wilson coefficients can be written as in the general form

$$\begin{aligned}
C_1^{LL}(s, t, u) &= 2g^2 \frac{s}{t} \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left[-2C_F L(t)^2 + X_1(s, t, u)L(t) + Y + \left(\frac{1}{2}C_A - 2C_F\right)Z(s, t, u) \right] \right\}, \\
C_1^{LR}(s, t, u) &= 2g^2 \frac{u}{t} \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left[-2C_F L(t)^2 + X_1(s, t, u)L(t) + Y + (2C_F - C_A)Z(u, t, s) \right] \right\}, \\
C_2^{LL}(s, t, u) &= 2g^2 \frac{s}{t} \left\{ \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left[X_2(s, t, u)L(t) - \frac{C_F}{2C_A}Z(s, t, u) \right] \right\}, \\
C_2^{LR}(s, t, u) &= 2g^2 \frac{u}{t} \left\{ \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left[X_2(s, t, u)L(t) + \frac{C_F}{2C_A}Z(u, t, s) \right] \right\},
\end{aligned}$$

with

$$X_1(s, t, u) = 6C_F - \beta_0 + 8C_F[L(s) - L(u)] - 2C_A[2L(s) - L(t) - L(u)] \quad (33)$$

$$X_2(s, t, u) = \frac{2C_F}{C_A}[L(s) - L(u)] \quad (34)$$

$$Y = C_A \left(\frac{10}{3} + \pi^2 \right) + C_F \left(\frac{\pi^2}{3} - 16 \right) + \frac{5}{3}\beta_0 \quad (35)$$

$$Z(s, t, u) = \frac{t}{s} \left(\frac{t+2u}{s} [L(u) - L(t)]^2 + 2[L(u) - L(t)] + \pi^2 \frac{t+2u}{s} \right), \quad (36)$$

where

$$\beta_0 = \frac{11}{3}C_A - \frac{2}{3}n_f. \quad (37)$$

and $C_A = N = 3$ and $C_F = \frac{N^2-1}{2N} = \frac{4}{3}$, with $N = 3$ the number of colors. The function $L(x)$ is defined by $L(x) = \log(|x|/\mu^2) - i\pi\theta(x)$. For massless $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering, $s > 0$ and $t, u < 0$, so

$$\begin{aligned} L(t) &= \log \frac{-t}{\mu^2}, \\ L(u) &= \log \frac{-u}{\mu^2}, \\ L(s) &= \log \frac{s}{\mu^2} - i\pi. \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

It is important to cross the Wilson coefficients *before* extracting the imaginary parts from these logarithms.

The hard function $H_{IJ} = \sum_{\Gamma} \mathcal{C}_I^{\Gamma} \mathcal{C}_J^{\Gamma*}$ is then, up to order $g^4\alpha_s$,

$$\begin{aligned} H_{11}(s, t, u) &= 8g^4 \frac{s^2 + u^2}{t^2} + 8g^4 \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left[\frac{s^2 + u^2}{t^2} \left(-4C_F L(t)^2 + 2X_1(s, t, u)L(t) + 2Y \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{s^2}{t^2}(C_A - 4C_F)Z(s, t, u) - \frac{u^2}{t^2}(2C_A - 4C_F)Z(u, t, s) \right] \\ H_{12}(s, t, u) &= 8g^4 \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left[\frac{s^2 + u^2}{t^2} X_2(s, t, u)L(t) - \frac{s^2}{t^2} \frac{C_F}{2C_A} Z(s, t, u) + \frac{u^2}{t^2} \frac{C_F}{2C_A} Z(u, t, s) \right] \\ H_{21}(s, t, u) &= H_{12}(s, t, u) \\ H_{22}(s, t, u) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

As a check, we can compare $|\mathcal{M}_{(2 \rightarrow 2)}|^2 = \frac{1}{N_{\text{init}}} \text{Tr}[HS^{\text{tree}}]$ to the $2 \rightarrow 2$ matrix-elements-squared in QCD, as in Eq. (13). For example, in the $q\bar{q} \rightarrow \bar{q}'q'$ channel (tsu), at tree-level

$$\mathcal{C}_1^{LL} = \mathcal{C}_1^{RR} = 2g_s^2 \frac{t}{s}, \quad \mathcal{C}_1^{LR} = \mathcal{C}_1^{RL} = 2g_s^2 \frac{u}{s}, \quad \mathcal{C}_2^{\Gamma} = 0 \quad (q\bar{q} \rightarrow \bar{q}'q'). \quad (40)$$

So,

$$H_{IJ}^{\text{tree}} = 8g_s^4 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t^2 + u^2 \\ s^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (q\bar{q} \rightarrow \bar{q}'q'). \quad (41)$$

At tree-level, the soft function is

$$S_{IJ}^{\text{tree}} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2}C_A C_F & 0 \\ 0 & C_A^2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (42)$$

For this channel, $N_{\text{init}} = 4N^2$ giving a final result

$$|\mathcal{M}_{(q\bar{q} \rightarrow \bar{q}'q')}|^2 = \frac{1}{4N^2} g_s^4 4C_A C_F \frac{t^2 + u^2}{s^2} + \dots. \quad (43)$$

The result is the correct tree-level matrix-element-squared for parton level $q\bar{q} \rightarrow q'\bar{q}'$ scattering in QCD. Using the NLO hard function, the result agrees with [26].

For identical particles, the Wilson coefficients should be included only for linearly independent operators. This is not strictly necessary, but avoids having to compute interference effects. As discussed in Section 3, for $qq \rightarrow qq$ in the LL spin configuration, the operators \mathcal{O}_{LL}^{stu} and \mathcal{O}_{LL}^{sut} are not independent. To correct for this, we can match onto the operators separately, and then use Eq. (19) to write

$$\mathcal{C}_I^{LLLL} = \mathcal{C}_I^{RRRR} = \mathcal{C}_I^{LL}(s, t, u) + B_{IJ}\mathcal{C}_J^{LL}(s, u, t) \quad (qq \rightarrow qq). \quad (44)$$

We have added more spin labels to make the counting of independent states more transparent. We can also cross the RL channel into the stu basis so that it can be evolved with the uts RG kernel (see Section 5.1 below). So we define for the $qq \rightarrow qq$ channel

$$\mathcal{C}_I^{LRLR} = \mathcal{C}_I^{RLRL} = \mathcal{C}_I^{LR}(s, t, u) \quad (qq \rightarrow qq), \quad (45)$$

$$\mathcal{C}_I^{LRRR} = \mathcal{C}_I^{RRLL} = B_{IJ}\mathcal{C}_J^{LR}(s, u, t) \quad (qq \rightarrow qq). \quad (46)$$

These contributions can then be combined incoherently. Summing over the six contributions, the tree-level hard function is then

$$H_{IJ}^{\text{tree}} = \frac{8g^4}{C_A^2 t^2 u^2} \begin{pmatrix} t^4 + C_A^2 u^4 + s^2(t - C_A u)^2 & -C_F(t^4 + s^2(t^2 - C_A t u)) \\ -C_F(t^4 + s^2(t^2 - C_A t u)) & C_F^2 t^2(s^2 + t^2) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (qq \rightarrow qq)$$

Multiplying by the tree-level soft function and dividing by $4N^2$ to average over initial states gives the correct tree-level $qq \rightarrow qq$ matrix element in QCD

$$|\mathcal{M}_{(qq \rightarrow qq)}|^2 = \frac{4}{9} \left(\frac{s^2 + u^2}{t^2} + \frac{t^2 + u^2}{s^2} \right) - \frac{8}{27} \frac{u^2}{st} + \dots \quad (47)$$

Using the NLO hard function, $|\mathcal{M}|^2$ also agrees with the NLO result in full QCD [26].

For $q\bar{q} \rightarrow q\bar{q}$, with the momentum convention in Table 1, we need the uts and ust operators. As for $qq \rightarrow qq$ the LR spins add incoherently and should be treated as separate channels, while the LL operators interfere. In this case, the same matrix applies. Thus, we need

$$\mathcal{C}_I^{LLLL} = \mathcal{C}_I^{RRRR} = \mathcal{C}_I^{LL}(u, t, s) + B_{IJ}\mathcal{C}_J^{LL}(u, s, t) \quad (q\bar{q} \rightarrow q\bar{q}) \quad (48)$$

$$\mathcal{C}_I^{LRLR} = \mathcal{C}_I^{RLRL} = \mathcal{C}_I^{LR}(u, t, s) \quad (q\bar{q} \rightarrow q\bar{q}) \quad (49)$$

$$\mathcal{C}_I^{LRRR} = \mathcal{C}_I^{RRLL} = B_{IJ}\mathcal{C}_J^{LR}(u, s, t). \quad (q\bar{q} \rightarrow q\bar{q}) \quad (50)$$

These four contributions can then be combined incoherently into a single hard function, as for $qq \rightarrow qq$. For $q\bar{q} \rightarrow q\bar{q}$, the channels are tsu and tus .

$12 \rightarrow 34$	crossing	operators	$12 \rightarrow 34$	crossing	operators
$gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}$	stu	$(\bar{q}_3 T^{ab} \Gamma q_4)(A_1^{a\pm} A_2^{b\pm})$	$gg \rightarrow \bar{q}q$	sut	$(\bar{q}_4 T^{ab} \Gamma q_3)(A_1^{a\pm} A_2^{b\pm})$
$\bar{q}g \rightarrow g\bar{q}$	uts	$(\bar{q}_1 T^{ab} \Gamma q_4)(A_3^{a\mp} A_2^{b\pm})$	$\bar{q}g \rightarrow \bar{q}g$	tus	$(\bar{q}_1 T^{ab} \Gamma q_3)(A_4^{a\mp} A_2^{b\pm})$
$qg \rightarrow qg$	tsu	$(\bar{q}_3 T^{ab} \Gamma q_1)(A_4^{a\mp} A_2^{b\pm})$	$qg \rightarrow gq$	ust	$(\bar{q}_4 T^{ab} \Gamma q_1)(A_3^{a\mp} A_2^{b\pm})$

Table 2: Crossing relations for the $gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ channels.

4.2 $gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ channels

Next, we give the Wilson coefficients for the $gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ channel and its crossings. There are again six crossings

$$gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}, \quad qg \rightarrow qg, \quad \bar{q}g \rightarrow \bar{q}g, \quad gg \rightarrow \bar{q}q, \quad qg \rightarrow gq, \quad \bar{q}g \rightarrow g\bar{q}. \quad (51)$$

The relevant operators, momentum conventions, and crossing relations are given in Table 2. The Wilson coefficients for $q\bar{q} \rightarrow gg$ are the same as $gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}$, but one must keep in mind the different number of color and spins in the initial state for a spin-averaged cross section. The amplitudes for quarks are the same as the amplitudes for anti-quarks, but with opposite gluon helicities, $+\leftrightarrow -$ and opposite spins $L \leftrightarrow R$. Since we will be mostly interested in the hard function H_{IJ} which sums over helicities, the convention we choose for \pm and L/R is unimportant.

The Wilson coefficients $C_I^{\pm\pm;\pm\pm} = C_I^{\lambda_1\lambda_2;\lambda_3\lambda_4}$ have 4 helicity labels λ_n and one color label, I . Also, helicity is conserved for massless quarks along a fermion line, so the Wilson coefficients vanish unless $\lambda_4 = -\lambda_3$. Parity invariance implies that

$$C_I^{\lambda_1\lambda_2;\lambda_3\lambda_4} = C_I^{-\lambda_1-\lambda_2;-\lambda_3-\lambda_4}. \quad (52)$$

Therefore, we only give expressions for half of the Wilson coefficients $C_I^{\lambda_1\lambda_2} \equiv C_I^{\lambda_1\lambda_2;+-}$ for $gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ with fixed quark helicities $\lambda_3 = +$ and $\lambda_4 = -$. The other half is obtained through Eq. (52).

The Wilson coefficients for the 4 independent spins and 3 independent colors are

$$C_1^{+-}(s, t, u) = 2g^2 \frac{\sqrt{tu}}{s} \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} [-(C_A + C_F)L(s)^2 + V_1(s, t, u)L(s) + W_1(s, t, u)] \right\} \quad (53)$$

$$C_1^{+ -}(s, t, u) = 2g^2 \frac{u}{s} \sqrt{\frac{u}{t}} \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} [-(C_A + C_F)L(s)^2 + V_1(s, t, u)L(s) + W_2(s, t, u)] \right\}$$

$$C_1^{++}(s, t, u) = C_1^{--}(s, t, u) = 2g^2 \sqrt{\frac{u}{t}} \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} W_3(s, t, u)$$

$$C_2^{+-}(s, t, u) = C_1^{+-}(s, u, t)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{C}_2^{+-}(s, t, u) &= \mathcal{C}_1^{-+}(s, u, t) \\
\mathcal{C}_2^{++}(s, t, u) &= \mathcal{C}_2^{--}(s, t, u) = \mathcal{C}_1^{++}(s, u, t) \\
\mathcal{C}_3^{+-}(s, t, u) &= 2g^2 \sqrt{\frac{t}{u}} \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \{V_2(s, t, u)L(s) + W_4(s, t, u)\} \\
\mathcal{C}_3^{+-}(s, t, u) &= \mathcal{C}_3^{-+}(s, u, t) \\
\mathcal{C}_3^{++}(s, t, u) &= \mathcal{C}_3^{--}(s, t, u) = 0,
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
W_1(s, t, u) &= (C_A - C_F) \frac{s}{u} \left([L(s) - L(t)]^2 + \pi^2 \right) + C_A - 8C_F + \left(\frac{7C_A + C_F}{6} \right) \pi^2 \quad (54) \\
W_2(s, t, u) &= \left(-C_F \frac{s^3}{u^3} - C_A \frac{t^3 + u^3 - s^3}{2u^3} \right) \left([L(s) - L(t)]^2 + \pi^2 \right) \\
&\quad + \left(2C_A \frac{ts}{u^2} + C_F \frac{s(2s - u)}{u^2} \right) [L(t) - L(s)] + C_F \frac{t - 7u}{u} - C_A \frac{t}{u} + \left(\frac{7C_A + C_F}{6} \right) \pi^2 \\
W_3(s, t, u) &= 2C_F - 2C_A - \frac{2t}{3s} (C_A - n_f) \\
W_4(s, t, u) &= -\frac{3u}{4t} [L(s) - L(u)]^2 - [L(s) - L(t)][L(s) - L(u)] + \frac{3\pi^2}{2} \frac{u^2}{ts} \\
V_1(s, t, u) &= 3C_F - 2C_A [L(t) - L(s)] \\
V_2(s, t, u) &= [L(s) - L(u)] + \frac{t}{s} [L(t) - L(u)].
\end{aligned}$$

With these Wilson coefficients, it is easy to compute that the hard function for $gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ is

$$H(s, t, u) = 8g^4 \begin{pmatrix} \frac{u^3 + ut^2}{s^2 t} & \frac{t^2 + u^2}{s^2} & 0 \\ \frac{t^2 + u^2}{s^2} & \frac{t(t^2 + u^2)}{s^2 u} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + 8g^4 \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \Re \left[H_{IJ}^{(NLO)} \right] + \dots, \quad (55)$$

where $\Re[x]$ denotes the real part of x , with

$$\begin{aligned}
H_{11}^{(NLO)} &= \frac{t^2 u + u^3}{s^2 t} \left[(-C_A - C_F) L(s)^2 + V_1(s, t, u) L(s) \right] + \frac{tu}{s^2} W_1(s, t, u) + \frac{u^3}{s^2 t} W_2(s, t, u) \\
H_{22}^{(NLO)} &= \frac{t^3 + tu^2}{s^2 u} \left[(-C_A - C_F) L(s)^2 + V_1(s, u, t) L(s) \right] + \frac{tu}{s^2} W_1(s, u, t) + \frac{t^3}{s^2 u} W_2(s, u, t) \\
H_{12}^{(NLO)} &= \frac{t^2 + u^2}{s^2} \left[(-C_A - 2C_F) L(s)^2 + V_1(s, t, u) L(s) + V_1(s, u, t) L(s) \right] \\
&\quad + \frac{u^2}{2s^2} (W_1(s, u, t) + W_2(s, t, u)) + \frac{t^2}{2s^2} (W_1(s, t, u) + W_2(s, u, t))
\end{aligned} \quad (56)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
H_{13}^{(NLO)} &= \frac{t}{2s} V_2(s, t, u) L(s) + \frac{u^2}{2st} V_2(s, u, t) L(s) + \frac{t}{2s} W_4(s, t, u) + \frac{u^2}{2st} W_4(s, u, t) \\
H_{23}^{(NLO)} &= \frac{t^2}{2su} V_2(s, t, u) L(s) + \frac{u}{2s} V_2(s, u, t) L(s) + \frac{t^2}{2su} W_4(s, t, u) + \frac{u}{2s} W_4(s, u, t) \\
H_{33}^{(NLO)} &= 0,
\end{aligned}$$

and $H_{JI} = H_{IJ}$.

The tree-level soft function in this color basis is

$$S_{IJ}^{\text{tree}} = \begin{pmatrix} C_A C_F^2 & -\frac{1}{2} C_F & C_A C_F \\ -\frac{1}{2} C_F & C_A C_F^2 & C_A C_F \\ C_A C_F & C_A C_F & 2 C_F C_A^2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (57)$$

Using these results, we can check the $2 \rightarrow 2$ cross section. For $gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}$,

$$|\mathcal{M}_{(gg \rightarrow q\bar{q})}|^2 = \frac{1}{4 \times 8^2} H_{IJ}(s, t, u) S_{JI}^{\text{tree}} \quad (58)$$

$$= g^4 \frac{C_F}{32} \frac{t^2 + u^2}{s^2} \left(C_A C_F \frac{t^2 + u^2}{tu} - 1 \right) + \dots, \quad (59)$$

which is the correct tree level result. The 1-loop hard function when combined with tree-level soft function reproduces the NLO cross section in [26].

4.3 $gg \rightarrow gg$ channel

Finally, we give the Wilson coefficients for $gg \rightarrow gg$. As discussed in Section 3, there are 8 independent color structures, but we match to an overcomplete basis of 9 color structures. There are 16 possible helicity amplitudes for each color structure, giving 144 matching coefficients. Fortunately, there is a great deal of symmetry for this process which relates the various helicity and color subamplitudes. Parity allows us to give the results for half of the helicities, with the other half obtained via Eq. (52). In this section, we will number the helicities $\Gamma = 1 \dots 16$, with the correspondence given in Table 3.

Only the first 6 color structures in Eq. (28) are non-zero at tree-level, and then only for 6 of the possible 16 helicity amplitudes. The tree-level amplitudes, \mathcal{M}_I^Γ are given in Table 4. At one loop, all 16 helicity amplitudes are non-zero for all color channels. The NLO matching coefficients are given by the following formula

$$c_I^\Gamma = \begin{cases} 4g^2 \mathcal{M}_I^\Gamma \left(1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \mathcal{Q}_I^\Gamma \right), & I = 1 \dots 6, \quad \Gamma = 1 \dots 6 \\ 4g^2 \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \mathcal{Q}_I^\Gamma, & I = 7, 8, 9, \quad \Gamma = 1 \dots 6 \\ 4g^2 \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \mathcal{Q}_I^\Gamma, & I = 1 \dots 9, \quad \Gamma = 7 \dots 16 \end{cases}, \quad (60)$$

Γ	$(\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \rightarrow \lambda_3 \lambda_4)$	Γ	$(\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \rightarrow \lambda_3 \lambda_4)$
1	(++,++)	9	(-+,++)
2	(--,--)	10	(+-,--)
3	(-+,-+)	11	(+-,++)
4	(+-,+-)	12	(-+,--)
5	(+-,-+)	13	(++, -+)
6	(-+,+-)	14	(--,+-)
7	(--,++)	15	(++,+-)
8	(-+,++)	16	(--, -+)

Table 3: The 16 helicity structures (Γ) for the $gg \rightarrow gg$ channel.

\mathcal{M}_I^Γ	$\Gamma = 1, 2$	3, 4	5, 6		1, 2	3, 4	5, 6
$I = 1$	$\frac{s}{u}$	$\frac{u}{s}$	$\frac{t^2}{su}$	4	$\frac{s^2}{tu}$	$\frac{u}{t}$	$\frac{t}{u}$
2	$\frac{s}{t}$	$\frac{u^2}{st}$	$\frac{t}{s}$	5	$\frac{s}{t}$	$\frac{u^2}{st}$	$\frac{t}{s}$
3	$\frac{s}{u}$	$\frac{u}{s}$	$\frac{t^2}{su}$	6	$\frac{s^2}{tu}$	$\frac{u}{t}$	$\frac{t}{u}$

Table 4: Tree-level matching coefficients, \mathcal{M}_I^Γ , for the $gg \rightarrow gg$ channel.

where the expressions for \mathcal{Q}_I^Γ are given in Table 5. The quantities \mathcal{Q}_I^Γ are written in terms of \mathcal{A} , \mathcal{B} , and \mathcal{F} , which are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{A}(s, t, u) &= -2C_A L(u)^2 + \left(-2C_A[L(s) - L(u)] + \beta_0 \right) L(u) + \left(\frac{4\pi^2}{3} - \frac{67}{9} \right) C_A + \frac{10}{9} n_f \\
\mathcal{B}(s, t, u) &= \mathcal{A}(s, t, u) + \beta_0 \frac{u}{t} [L(u) - L(s)] - \frac{3n_f}{2} \frac{su}{t^2} \left([L(u) - L(s)]^2 + \pi^2 \right) \\
&\quad + (C_A - n_f) \frac{su}{t^2} \left[\frac{s-u}{t} [L(u) - L(s)] + \left(\frac{su}{t^2} - 2 \right) \left([L(u) - L(s)]^2 + \pi^2 \right) - 1 \right] \\
\mathcal{F}(s, t, u) &= \frac{1}{C_A} \left(\frac{s^2}{tu} \mathcal{B}(t, s, u) + \frac{s^2}{tu} \mathcal{B}(u, s, t) + \frac{2s}{u} \mathcal{A}(s, t, u) + \frac{2s}{t} \mathcal{A}(s, u, t) \right).
\end{aligned} \tag{61}$$

With these Wilson coefficients, we compute the hard function for $gg \rightarrow gg$ is

\mathcal{Q}_I^Γ	$\Gamma = 1, 2$	3, 4	5, 6	7	8 – 16
$I = 1$	$\mathcal{A}(s, t, u)$	$\mathcal{A}(u, t, s)$	$\mathcal{B}(s, t, u)$	$\frac{1}{3}(C_A - n_f)$	$-\frac{t^2}{3su}(C_A - n_f)$
2	$\mathcal{A}(s, u, t)$	$\mathcal{B}(t, u, s)$	$\mathcal{A}(t, u, s)$	$\frac{1}{3}(C_A - n_f)$	$-\frac{u^2}{3st}(C_A - n_f)$
3	$\mathcal{A}(s, t, u)$	$\mathcal{A}(u, t, s)$	$\mathcal{B}(u, t, s)$	$\frac{1}{3}(C_A - n_f)$	$-\frac{t^2}{3su}(C_A - n_f)$
4	$\mathcal{B}(u, s, t)$	$\mathcal{A}(u, s, t)$	$\mathcal{A}(t, s, u)$	$\frac{1}{3}(C_A - n_f)$	$-\frac{s^2}{3tu}(C_A - n_f)$
5	$\mathcal{A}(s, u, t)$	$\mathcal{B}(s, u, t)$	$\mathcal{A}(t, u, s)$	$\frac{1}{3}(C_A - n_f)$	$-\frac{u^2}{3st}(C_A - n_f)$
6	$\mathcal{B}(t, s, u)$	$\mathcal{A}(u, s, t)$	$\mathcal{A}(t, s, u)$	$\frac{1}{3}(C_A - n_f)$	$-\frac{s^2}{3tu}(C_A - n_f)$
$I = 7, 8, 9$	$\mathcal{F}(s, t, u)$	$\mathcal{F}(u, s, t)$	$\mathcal{F}(t, s, u)$	2	-2

Table 5: The expressions for \mathcal{Q}_I^Γ for the indicated helicity structures.

$$H_{IJ} = 32g^4 \frac{(s^4 + t^4 + u^4)}{s^2 t^2 u^2} \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} t^2 & tu & t^2 & st & tu & st \\ tu & u^2 & tu & su & u^2 & su \\ t^2 & tu & t^2 & st & tu & st \\ st & su & st & s^2 & su & s^2 \\ tu & u^2 & tu & su & u^2 & su \\ st & su & st & s^2 & su & s^2 \\ \hline & & & 0_{3 \times 6} & & \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 0_{6 \times 3} \\ 0_{3 \times 3} \end{array} \right) + g^4 \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \Re[H_{IJ}^{(NLO)}]. \quad (62)$$

The 1-loop hard function, $H_{IJ}^{(NLO)}$ is complicated and is therefore not written explicitly.

The tree-level soft function in this color basis is

$$S_{IJ}^{\text{tree}} = \frac{C_F}{8C_A} \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & b & b & b & d & d & -e \\ b & a & b & b & c & b & -e & d & d \\ c & b & a & b & b & b & d & d & -e \\ b & b & b & a & b & c & d & -e & d \\ b & c & b & b & a & b & -e & d & d \\ b & b & b & c & b & a & d & -e & d \\ d & -e & d & d & -e & d & de & e^2 & e^2 \\ d & d & d & -e & d & -e & e^2 & de & e^2 \\ -e & d & -e & d & d & d & e^2 & e^2 & de \end{pmatrix}, \quad (63)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 3 + C_A^2 & b &= 3 - C_A^2 & c &= C_A^4 - 3C_A^2 + 3 \\ d &= 2C_A^2 C_F & e &= C_A. \end{aligned} \quad (64)$$

Combining H_{IJ} with S_{JI}^{tree} and using $N = 3$ gives

$$|\mathcal{M}_{(gg \rightarrow gg)}|^2 = \frac{1}{4 \times 8^2} H_{IJ} S_{JI}^{\text{tree}} = \frac{C_A^3 C_F g^4}{32} \frac{(s^2 + t^2 + u^2)(s^4 + t^4 + u^4)}{s^2 u^2 t^2} + \dots, \quad (65)$$

which is the correct tree-level matrix-element-squared for $gg \rightarrow gg$. As with the other channels, the 1-loop hard function for $gg \rightarrow gg$, when combined with the tree-level soft function, reproduces the NLO cross section in full QCD [26].

5 Renormalization Group Evolution

The renormalization group evolution of Wilson coefficients in SCET is determined by the same virtual graphs as in the matching step. However, the evolution is not uniquely fixed given only the Wilson coefficients themselves; one needs also the mixing terms. The Wilson coefficients satisfy a renormalization group equation of the form [20, 21, 22, 24, 25]

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \mu} \mathcal{C}_I^\Gamma(\mu) = \Gamma_{IJ}^H \mathcal{C}_J^\Gamma(\mu), \quad (66)$$

where, up to at least 2-loop order, Γ_{IJ}^H has the form

$$\Gamma_{IJ}^H(s, t, u, \mu) = \left(\gamma_{\text{cusp}} \frac{c_H}{2} \ln \frac{-t}{\mu^2} + \gamma_H - \frac{\beta(\alpha_s)}{\alpha_s} \right) \delta_{IJ} + \gamma_{\text{cusp}} M_{IJ}(s, t, u). \quad (67)$$

The $\beta(\alpha_s)/\alpha_s$ term compensates for the $g^2(\mu)$ dependence in the leading order Wilson coefficients. The QCD beta function is $\beta(\alpha) = -2\alpha \left(\frac{\alpha}{4\pi} \right) \beta_0 + \dots$ with β_0 given in Eq. (37). The cusp anomalous dimension is $\gamma_{\text{cusp}} = 4 \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \right) + \dots$. For NNLL resummation, one needs the β -function and γ_{cusp} to 3-loop order, which can be found in [4], and the γ_H and M_{IJ} terms to 2-loop order, which we give below.

The specific form of the hard function RGE in Eq. (67) implies that

1. All of the μ dependence is proportional to the identity matrix in color space. It is fixed by a single Casimir c_H which is known exactly. Explicitly,

$$c_H = \sum_i C_{R_i} = n_q C_F + n_g C_A, \quad (68)$$

where C_{R_i} is the quadratic Casimir of representation R_i , and $n_q(n_g)$ the total number of quarks (gluons) in the hard process. The sum is over both initial and final states,

2. All of the color mixing terms are proportional to the universal cusp anomalous dimension γ_{cusp} . They are fixed by a single matrix $M_{IJ}(s, t, u)$ which depends on the channel and is known exactly. Once a color basis is chosen, this matrix can be computed from

$$\mathbf{M} = - \sum_{\langle i \neq j \rangle} \frac{\mathbf{T}_i \cdot \mathbf{T}_j}{2} \left[L(s_{ij}) - L(t) \right], \quad (69)$$

where $s_{12} = s_{34} = s$, $s_{13} = s_{24} = t$ and $s_{24} = s_{13} = u$ and $L(x)$ is given in Eq. (38). The operator $\mathbf{T}_i \cdot \mathbf{T}_j$ acts in color space on the operator basis, as discussed in [18].

3. γ_H depends on the number of quarks and gluons involved, but not on the color structure. It is given by

$$\gamma_H = n_q \gamma_q + n_g \gamma_g, \quad (70)$$

where, $\gamma_q = \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi}\right)(-3C_F) + \dots$ and $\gamma_g = \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi}\right)(-\beta_0) + \dots$. These quark and gluon anomalous dimensions can be found up to 3-loops in [20].

The form of Eq. (67) is known to hold up to 2-loop order. Here, we verify it to 1-loop by direct calculation. The 2-loop results are then used to solve the RGE of the Wilson coefficients for NNLL resummation. Eq. (67) may hold to more than 2-loops, however at 3-loop order new possible terms may arise which appear not to be forbidden by general arguments [22].

The universality of the off-diagonal terms in M_{IJ} allows the mixing to be diagonalized once and for all. This diagonalization was shown at next-to-leading order in the traditional approach in [17], and we find an eigensystem in SCET which is essentially identical. Differences in the eigenvalues are due to different conventions for the diagonal terms, related to the way double-counting of soft-collinear divergences in the two theories are handled. Also, the explicit factor of $\log \frac{-t}{\mu^2}$ in Eq. (67) is a convention. We could have used any other scale in this logarithm, such as $\log \frac{s}{\mu^2}$; the physical prediction is independent of our convention.

Let us denote the linear combination of Wilson coefficients which are eigenvectors of M_{IJ} by \mathcal{C}_K^Γ , with eigenvalues λ_K . In the diagonal basis, the evolution equation takes the form

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \mu} \mathcal{C}_K^\Gamma(\mu) = \left[\gamma_{\text{cusp}} \frac{c_H}{2} \ln \frac{-t}{\mu^2} + \gamma_H + \gamma_{\text{cusp}} \lambda_K - \frac{\beta(\alpha_s)}{\alpha_s} \right] \mathcal{C}_K^\Gamma(\mu). \quad (71)$$

As we can see, the evolution is now local in color space. Since the off-diagonal mixing terms are proportional to γ_{cusp} , this holds to at least order α_s^2 . Thus, it can be solved in closed form once-and-for-all [33, 34]. The solution to the RGE is

$$\mathcal{C}_K^\Gamma(\mu) = \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_h)}{\alpha_s(\mu)} \exp \left[c_H S(\mu_h, \mu) - A_H(\mu_h, \mu) - A_\Gamma(\mu_h, \mu) \left(\lambda_K + \frac{c_H}{2} \ln \frac{-t}{\mu_h^2} \right) \right] \mathcal{C}_K^\Gamma(\mu_h), \quad (72)$$

where the functions $S(\nu, \mu)$ and $A(\nu, \mu)$ are the same as in [4]. They have the general form

$$S(\nu, \mu) = - \int_{\alpha_s(\nu)}^{\alpha_s(\mu)} d\alpha \frac{\gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha)}{\beta(\alpha)} \int_{\alpha_s(\nu)}^{\alpha} \frac{d\alpha'}{\beta(\alpha')} \quad (73)$$

$$A_\Gamma(\nu, \mu) = - \int_{\alpha_s(\nu)}^{\alpha_s(\mu)} d\alpha \frac{\gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha)}{\beta(\alpha)}. \quad (74)$$

$A_H(\nu, \mu)$ is the same as $A_\Gamma(\nu, \mu)$ but with γ_H replacing γ_{cusp} . Closed-form expressions for these functions in renormalization-improved perturbation theory can be found in [35].

Since the RGE is independent of spin, we can also solve directly for the evolution of the spin-summed hard functions $H_{IJ} = \sum_{\mathbf{r}} \mathcal{C}_I^{\mathbf{r}} \mathcal{C}_J^{\mathbf{r}*}$. If we go to the basis in which M_{IJ} is diagonal, then the hard functions evolution equation is particularly simple

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \mu} H_{KK'}(\mu) = \left[\gamma_{\text{cusp}} \left(c_H \ln \left| \frac{t}{\mu^2} \right| + \lambda_K + \lambda_{K'}^* \right) + 2\gamma_H - \frac{2\beta(\alpha_s)}{\alpha_s} \right] H_{KK'}(\mu), \quad (75)$$

where we have used $\gamma_H^* = \gamma_H$. The solution, reinstating the stu dependence for clarity, is

$$H_{KK'}(s, t, u, \mu) = \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_h)^2}{\alpha_s(\mu)^2} \exp \left[2c_H S(\mu_h, \mu) - 2A_H(\mu_h, \mu) \right] \\ \times \exp \left[-A_\Gamma(\mu_h, \mu) \left(\lambda_K(s, t, u) + \lambda_{K'}^*(s, t, u) + c_H \ln \left| \frac{t}{\mu_h^2} \right| \right) \right] H_{KK'}(s, t, u, \mu_h). \quad (76)$$

Note that the hard function is Hermitian, by definition, but not real. Its Hermiticity is preserved by the renormalization group evolution.

In the remainder of this section, we give the explicit expressions for c_H , γ_H , M_{IJ} , and λ_K for the various channels.

5.1 $qq \rightarrow qq$ channels

The values of c_H and γ_H for all of the $qq \rightarrow qq$ crossings are

$$c_H = 4C_F \quad (77)$$

$$\gamma_H = \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \right) (-12C_F) + \dots, \quad (78)$$

which agree with Eqs. (68) and (70). The mixing matrix for the representative channel $qq' \rightarrow qq'$ is

$$M_{IJ}(s, t, u) = \begin{pmatrix} 4C_F[L(u) - L(s)] - C_A[L(t) + L(u) - 2L(s)] & 2[L(u) - L(s)] \\ \frac{C_F}{C_A}[L(u) - L(s)] & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (79)$$

and the mixing matrix for other channels can be obtained by using the crossing relations given in Table 1.

For conciseness, since the matrix does not depend on μ , we will use the abbreviated notation, following [17],

$$T \equiv L(t) - L(s) \quad (80)$$

$$U \equiv L(u) - L(s) . \quad (81)$$

Then

$$M_{IJ}(s, t, u) = \begin{pmatrix} 4C_F U - C_A(T + U) & 2U \\ \frac{C_F}{C_A} U & 0 \end{pmatrix} . \quad (82)$$

When identical particles are involved, one has to be careful to use the RGE appropriate for that channel. Recall that we used a Fierz identity to rewrite the \mathcal{O}^{sut} operators as linear combinations of the \mathcal{O}^{stu} operators in Eq. (19). The operators \mathcal{O}^{sut} and \mathcal{O}^{stu} evolve differently and to ensure this linear combination is not altered by evolution, we must have

$$\mathbf{M}(s, t, u) = \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{M}(s, u, t) \cdot \mathbf{B} , \quad (83)$$

which is easily seen to hold. In fact, we have already used this relation to write all of the contributions to the $qq \rightarrow qq$ channel in terms of a basis which evolves with $M_{IJ}(s, u, t)$, thus letting us calculate a single hard function for the $qq \rightarrow qq$ channel.

The eigenvalues of M_{IJ} are

$$\lambda_{\pm} = \frac{C_A}{2}(U - T) - \frac{1}{C_A}U \pm \sqrt{UT + \frac{1}{4}C_A^2(T - U)^2} . \quad (84)$$

Here, \pm is shorthand for the two complex roots of the discriminant. The diagonal basis is related to the original basis by

$$\mathcal{C}_{\pm}^{\Gamma} = \lambda_{\pm} \mathcal{C}_1^{\Gamma} + \frac{C_F}{C_A} U \mathcal{C}_2^{\Gamma} . \quad (85)$$

The normalizations are arbitrary. To change to the diagonal basis for the Wilson coefficients or the hard functions, it is convenient to use matrix notation

$$\mathcal{C}_{\pm}^{\Gamma} = F_{\pm I} \mathcal{C}_I^{\Gamma} = (F \cdot \mathcal{C}^{\Gamma})_{\pm} \quad (86)$$

$$H_{\pm\pm'} = F_{\pm I} F_{\pm' J}^* H_{IJ} = (F \cdot H \cdot F^{\dagger})_{\pm\pm'} , \quad (87)$$

with

$$F_{\pm I}(s, t, u) = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_+ & \frac{C_F}{C_A} U \\ \lambda_- & \frac{C_F}{C_A} U \end{pmatrix} . \quad (88)$$

The same matrix applies to all channels, with the crossing given in Table 1. Note that the explicit factor of $\ln \frac{-t}{\mu^2} = L(t)$ in Eq. (67) must be crossed as well. If t crosses into s , this logarithm has an imaginary part given by $L(s)$ in Eq. (38). However, this particular imaginary part drops out when \mathcal{C}_+^{Γ} and \mathcal{C}_-^{Γ} are combined into the hard function so it can generally be ignored for physical applications. The imaginary parts in $F_{\pm I}$ and λ_{\pm} are important and must be included.

5.2 $gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ channels

For the $gg \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ channels,

$$c_H = 2C_F + 2C_A \quad (89)$$

$$\gamma_H = \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi}\right) (-6C_F - 2\beta_0) + \dots, \quad (90)$$

and

$$M_{IJ}(s, t, u) = \begin{pmatrix} -C_F T & 0 & 2(T - U) \\ 0 & -(C_F + C_A)T + C_A U & 2(U - T) \\ -\frac{1}{2}U & -\frac{1}{2}T & -(C_F + C_A)T \end{pmatrix}. \quad (91)$$

The eigenvalues are

$$\lambda_K = -(C_F + C_A)T + \hat{\lambda}_K, \quad (92)$$

where $\hat{\lambda}_K$ are solutions of

$$\hat{\lambda}_K^3 - C_A(T + U)\hat{\lambda}_K^2 + [C_A^2 T U - (T - U)^2] \hat{\lambda}_K + C_A(T - U)^2(T + U) = 0. \quad (93)$$

It is straightforward to solve this cubic equation, with general complex coefficients, but the explicit solutions are unilluminating. The Wilson coefficients and hard function in the diagonal basis are

$$\mathcal{C}_K^\Gamma = F_{KI} \mathcal{C}_I^\Gamma \quad H_{KK'} = (F \cdot H \cdot F^\dagger)_{KK'}, \quad (94)$$

with

$$F_{KI}(s, t, u) = \begin{pmatrix} (U - T)T - C_A U \hat{\lambda}_1 + \hat{\lambda}_1^2 & U(T - U) & \frac{1}{2}U(C_A U - \hat{\lambda}_1) \\ (U - T)T - C_A U \hat{\lambda}_2 + \hat{\lambda}_2^2 & U(T - U) & \frac{1}{2}U(C_A U - \hat{\lambda}_2) \\ (U - T)T - C_A U \hat{\lambda}_3 + \hat{\lambda}_3^2 & U(T - U) & \frac{1}{2}U(C_A U - \hat{\lambda}_3) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (95)$$

5.3 $gg \rightarrow gg$ channel

For $gg \rightarrow gg$,

$$c_H = 4C_A \quad (96)$$

$$\gamma_H = \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi}\right) (-4\beta_0) + \dots. \quad (97)$$

The mixing matrix is given by Kidonakis et al. in [17]. Our color basis agrees with theirs, but they have $t \leftrightarrow u$ compared to the convention of [26] which we also use. In addition, we use

$\log \frac{-t}{\mu^2}$ rather than $\log \frac{s}{\mu^2}$ for the μ -dependence piece, which changes the diagonal elements of the matrix. In our notation, the mixing matrix is

$$M_{IJ}(s, t, u) = \begin{pmatrix} C_A(U-2T) & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -T & U-T & 0 \\ 0 & -C_AT & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & T-U & -U \\ 0 & 0 & C_A(U-2T) & 0 & 0 & 0 & -T & U-T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & C_A(U-T) & 0 & 0 & T & 0 & U \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -C_AT & 0 & 0 & T-U & -U \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & C_A(U-T) & T & 0 & U \\ U-T & 0 & U-T & U & 0 & U & 2C_A(U-T) & 0 & 0 \\ -T & -U & -T & 0 & -U & 0 & 0 & -2C_AT & 0 \\ 0 & T-U & 0 & T & T-U & T & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (98)$$

The eigenvalues and eigenvectors of this matrix are given for general N in [17]. For $N = 3$, the results simplify, and we find

$$\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = -3T \quad (99)$$

$$\lambda_3 = \lambda_4 = 3(U-T) \quad (100)$$

$$\lambda_5 = \lambda_6 = 3(U-2T) \quad (101)$$

$$\lambda_7 = 2(U-2T) \quad (102)$$

$$\lambda_{8,9} = 2U - 4T \pm 4\sqrt{T^2 - TU + U^2}. \quad (103)$$

The matrix of eigenvectors is

$$F_{KI}(s, t, u) = \begin{pmatrix} 2U & 7T & 2U & 2(T-U) & 7T & 2(T-U) & 0 & -6U & 6(U-T) \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 2U & -2T & 2U & 7(U-T) & -2T & 7(U-T) & -6U & 0 & 6T \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 7U & 2T & 7U & 2(U-T) & 2T & 2(U-T) & 6(T-U) & -6T & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ a_1(\lambda_8) & a_2(\lambda_8) & a_3(\lambda_8) & a_4(\lambda_8) & a_5(\lambda_8) & a_6(\lambda_8) & a_7(\lambda_8) & a_8(\lambda_8) & a_9(\lambda_8) \\ a_1(\lambda_9) & a_2(\lambda_9) & a_3(\lambda_9) & a_4(\lambda_9) & a_5(\lambda_9) & a_6(\lambda_9) & a_7(\lambda_9) & a_8(\lambda_9) & a_9(\lambda_9) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (105)$$

with

$$a_1(\lambda) = -\frac{4T^2U^2(T-U)^2(4T^2-4TU+5U^2)(5T^2-5TU+8U^2)}{240T^4+30T^3(\lambda-16U)+9T^2U(56U-5\lambda)+TU^2(35\lambda-264U)+10U^3(6U-\lambda)}$$

$$a_2(\lambda) = \frac{1}{3}T^2(T-U) \left(T^2(6\lambda - 8U) + TU(8U - \lambda) + 5U^2(\lambda - 4U) \right) \quad (106)$$

$$a_3(\lambda) = a_1(\lambda)$$

$$a_4(\lambda) = \frac{1}{3}T(T-U)^2 \left(T^2(8U + 6\lambda) - TU(8U + 11\lambda) + 10U^2(2U + \lambda) \right)$$

$$a_5(\lambda) = a_2(\lambda)$$

$$a_6(\lambda) = a_4(\lambda)$$

$$a_7(\lambda) = (T-U)^2 \left(-10T^3\lambda + T^2U(16U + 23\lambda) - TU^2(26U + 23\lambda) + 10U^3(2U + \lambda) \right)$$

$$a_8(\lambda) = T^2 \left(-10T^3\lambda + T^2U(16U + 7\lambda) - TU^2(6U + 7\lambda) + 10U^4 \right)$$

$$a_9(\lambda) = 2T^2(T-U)^2 \left(4T^2 - 4TU + 5U^2 \right) .$$

6 Soft function

The results for the NLO Wilson coefficients and their RG evolution apply for any physical process for which massless $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering gives the leading order contribution. If we are interested in a particular dijet observable, we must in addition calculate a process-dependent soft function. In general, soft function calculations may be much more difficult than the hard function calculation, since they can involve arbitrarily complicated phase space cuts. However, as we will show in this section, there are some universal features which must hold for *any* soft function. In particular, the μ -dependence of the soft function and its RGE to 2-loop order are almost completely fixed.

In SCET, a soft function is calculated by taking matrix elements of the products of Wilson lines which appear in the SCET operators. For example, for the $qq' \rightarrow qq'$ operators, these are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{W}_1 &= \mathbf{T} \left\{ (Y_4^\dagger \tau^a Y_2) (Y_3^\dagger \tau^a Y_1) \right\} \\ \mathcal{W}_2 &= \mathbf{T} \left\{ (Y_4^\dagger \mathbf{1} Y_2) (Y_3^\dagger \mathbf{1} Y_1) \right\} . \end{aligned} \quad (107)$$

The soft function is then calculated from

$$S_{IJ}(\{k\}, n_i^\mu, \mu) = \sum_{X_s} \langle 0 | \mathcal{W}_I^\dagger | X_s \rangle \langle X_s | \mathcal{W}_J | 0 \rangle F_S(\{k\}) , \quad (108)$$

where the sum is over soft radiation in the final state. The function $F_S(\{k\})$ encodes the dependence on various projections on the soft momenta related to the definition of the observable. No matter what the observable is, the soft function can only depend on directions n_i^μ of the various Wilson lines, and on arbitrary soft scales $\{k\}$ relevant to the projections. Because of factorization, it cannot depend on the energy of the jets, the hard scales s, t, u or the energy fractions x_i of the PDFs.

For the final cross section to be independent of μ , the soft function must satisfy a renormalization group equation closely related to that of the hard Wilson coefficients. The soft function evolution will not be local in $\{k\}$, but must be local in Laplace space for factorization to hold. The Laplace transform of the soft function is defined, for one scale k , as

$$\tilde{S}_{IJ}(Q, \mathbf{n}_i^\mu, \mu) = \int_0^\infty dk \exp\left(-\frac{k}{Qe^{\gamma_E}}\right) S_{IJ}(k, \mathbf{n}_i^\mu, \mu), \quad (109)$$

g with the natural generalization to more scales $\{k\}$. In Laplace space, the jet function and PDF evolution is also local. Furthermore, since the jet functions and the PDFs evolve diagonally in color, the color mixing terms in the soft function evolution must exactly compensate the color mixing terms in the hard function evolution.

It follows that the soft function must satisfy

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \mu} \tilde{S}_{IJ}(\{Q\}, \mathbf{n}_i^\mu, \mu) = -\tilde{S}_{IL}(\{Q\}, \mathbf{n}_i^\mu, \mu) \Gamma_{LJ}^S - \Gamma_{IL}^{S\dagger} \tilde{S}_{LJ}^\dagger(\{Q\}, \mathbf{n}_i^\mu, \mu), \quad (110)$$

where

$$\Gamma_{IJ}^S = \left(\gamma_{\text{cusp}} c_Q \ln \frac{\{Q\}}{\mu} + \gamma_{\text{cusp}} r(\mathbf{n}_i^\mu) + \gamma_S \right) \delta_{IJ} + \gamma_{\text{cusp}} M_{IJ}(\mathbf{n}_i^\mu). \quad (111)$$

This has many of the same properties as the hard function RGE, Eq. (67):

1. The μ -dependence is proportional to γ_{cusp} times the identity matrix in color space.
2. The color mixing is proportional to γ_{cusp} and fixed by a single matrix.
3. The unknown quantity γ_S depends only on the channel, not the color structure.

Furthermore, for the soft function we can observe further that

4. The matrix $M_{IJ}(\mathbf{n}_i)$ can be taken to be the same as the M_{IJ} matrix appearing in Eq. (67), which depends on s, t and u . This is possible because only dimensionless Lorentz-invariant ratios appear, and $(\mathbf{n}_i \cdot \mathbf{n}_j)/(\mathbf{n}_k \cdot \mathbf{n}_l) = (p_i \cdot p_j)/(p_k \cdot p_l)$. To make this transparent, we can even write

$$\mathbf{M} = - \sum_{\langle i \neq j \rangle} \frac{\mathbf{T}_i \cdot \mathbf{T}_j}{2} [L(n_{ij}) - L(n_{13})] \quad (112)$$

where $n_{ij} = \pm \mathbf{n}_i \cdot \mathbf{n}_j$, taking the $+$ sign when \mathbf{n}_i and \mathbf{n}_j are both incoming or both outgoing, and the $-$ sign otherwise. This form of \mathbf{M} is a variation of the form presented in [18].

5. The color-diagonal piece, proportional to $\gamma_{\text{cusp}} \delta_{IJ}$, may have dependence on the directions \mathbf{n}_i^μ and on the soft scales $\{Q\}$.
6. RG invariance lets us solve for γ_S in terms of γ_H and the jet and PDF anomalous dimensions γ_J and γ_f .

Note that in defining the matrix M_{IJ} with the hard function, Eq. (67), there was an implicit convention in the diagonal terms. For example, if we had written $\ln \frac{-u}{\mu^2}$ instead of $\ln \frac{-t}{\mu^2}$ the diagonal terms in M_{IJ} would be different. This change of convention can then be absorbed in the $r(n_i^\mu)$ term in the soft function anomalous dimension. The terms in the soft function evolution equation proportional to δ_{IJ} are also different from those in the hard function evolution equation because they must additionally compensate for the evolution of the jet functions and PDFs. Since the number and type of jets which contribute depends on the observable, this term is observable-dependent. Once an observable is defined, the entire soft function RGE can be fixed either by a 1-loop computation or by analyzing the factorization formula.

Since the mixing terms in the soft function are proportional to M_{IJ} , there is no mixing in the basis in which M_{IJ} is diagonal. In the previous section, explicit expressions were given for the matrices F_{IK} which let us change from the I basis, in which the NLO matching is simple, to the K basis, in which the evolution is simple. We had written

$$H_{KK'} = (F \cdot H \cdot F^\dagger)_{KK'}. \quad (113)$$

Consequently the soft function transforms as

$$S_{KK'} = [(F^{-1})^\dagger \cdot S \cdot F^{-1}]_{KK'}. \quad (114)$$

The cross section involves a sum over color structures

$$\sum_{IJ} H_{IJ} S_{JI} = \sum_{KK'} H_{KK'} S_{K'K} = \text{Tr}(HS), \quad (115)$$

which is basis independent. Since both H and S are Hermetian, this sum is real. However, note that F may not be unitary since M_{IJ} is in general not Hermetian.

The general solution to the soft function RGE in the diagonal basis is

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{S}_{KK'}(\{Q\}, n_i^\mu, \mu) &= \exp \left[-2c_Q S(\mu_s, \mu) + 2A_S(\mu_s, \mu) \right] \\ &\times \exp \left[A_\Gamma(\mu_s, \mu) \left(\lambda_K + \lambda_{K'}^* + r(n_i^\mu) + r(n_i^\mu)^* + 2c_Q \ln \frac{\{Q\}}{\mu_s} \right) \right] \tilde{S}_{KK'}(\{Q\}, n_i^\mu, \mu_s). \end{aligned} \quad (116)$$

This can be transformed back to momentum space using the techniques described, for example, in [8], but the general expression is not particularly illuminating. Note that even in the K basis, in which the evolution is diagonal, the soft function itself may still have non-diagonal terms. For next-to-leading-log resummation (NLL), the soft function is completely determined by its anomalous dimensions, and then $\tilde{S}_{KK'}(\{Q\}, \mu)$ is diagonal for any μ . At NNLL there are additional color-mixing terms in the finite parts of the soft function which have to be included. Nevertheless, due to very general arguments, each component of the soft function at the scale μ is proportional to the the same component at any other scale μ' , $\tilde{S}_{KK'}(\mu) \propto \tilde{S}_{KK'}(\mu')$, as this equation shows.

Although a factorization formula will let us deduce γ_S from RG invariance, it is satisfying to also calculate this anomalous dimension directly. Such a calculation provides an important check that the observable is well defined and that the factorization theorem actually works. Moreover, performing the calculation of a particular soft function to order α_s will also produce the μ -independent α_s terms, which are necessary for NNLL resummation. An example can be found in [36]. Nevertheless, it is easy to imagine a complicated enough observable for which direct calculation is not possible. In that case, these general results will allow us to resum the next-to-leading logarithms (NLL) without actually doing the soft integrals.

7 Conclusions

We have presented the tools necessary for an effective field theory calculation at NNLL of observables based on $2 \rightarrow 2$ processes in QCD. The 1-loop matching coefficients for all the $2 \rightarrow 2$ processes have been compiled in a format that is conducive to the computation of dijet observables in SCET. The evolution of these matching coefficients is independent of the observable and we have given analytic formulas for the Wilson coefficients at an arbitrary scale μ including NNLL resummation.

For each channel, there is a basis in which the evolution of the Wilson coefficients is diagonal in color space. These bases and the associated eigenvalues of the evolution equations were given explicitly for all channels. Unfortunately, the basis in which the 1-loop matching is simple and the basis in which the renormalization group evolution is simple do not coincide. Nevertheless, since we have provided the explicit matrices to go between bases, numerical evaluation of the resummed expressions is now straightforward.

General soft functions, which may depend on the observable, were also examined. They were shown to have similar universal properties to the hard function as required by the consistency of the effective field theory. The bases which diagonalize the Wilson coefficient evolution also diagonalize the soft functions evolution and simplify the form of the resummed expressions.

With these results, it will be possible to begin accurate calculations of dijet observables including NNLL resummation. As a start, it would be useful to compute a simple observable which can check the RG evolution for the soft function we have derived here through explicit calculation. Such a calculation is given in [36]. Then, more interesting observables may be approached, including, for example, the jet p_T spectrum at large p_T , jet substructure, such as jet masses or angularities [32], hadronic event shapes [37], or even possibly observables related to the color flow in an event [38].

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